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The present invention comprises a polymeric binder for water-resistant ink jet inks, wherein the binder has an acid component in the range from about 1 to about 10 wt.% of the polymer, a glass transition temperature in the range from about -20°C to about 25°C, and an average particle diameter in the range from about 250 to about 400 nm and a particle size distribution such that essentially all the particles have a diameter in the range from 130 to 450 nm. The binder comprises monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylates, methacrylates, styrene, substituted styrene, fluoromethacrylates, vinyl acrylates, vinyl acetates, acrylamides, substituted acrylamides, methacrylamides, substituted methacrylamides, or combinations thereof.